

REMARKS:

Consideration of the application is respectfully requested. Amendments have been made pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121. No new matter has been entered.

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-20 are pending.

Claims 1-20 were rejected.

Claims 1-2, 4, 6 and 14-20 are currently amended.

CLAIMS**I. Claim Objection**

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-5 for improper antecedent basis of “said body.” In response, Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation “a body.” In view of the forgoing remarks and amendments, the objection to Claims 1-5 should be withdrawn.

II. Claim Rejection – 35 USC 102**Rejection under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by
Harbaugh (US Pat. No. 5,584,588)**

In paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-5 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Harbaugh (US Pat. No. 5,584,588). In response, Applicant has amended the claims to better clarify the invention.

Applicant's Invention

Applicant's invention is a uniquely designed keyboard that is easy to use and which increases the rapidity of data entry by minimizing the distance between keys. The design of the keyboard is a function of an X-Y coordinate system wherein the space key or other reference key is positioned at the origin of the X-Y coordinate system. The keyboard of the present invention further includes: 1) a first data entry key defining a maximum positive ordinate value along the Y-axis; 2) a second data entry key defining a maximum negative ordinate value along the Y-axis; 3) a third data entry key defining a maximum positive abscissa value along the X-axis; and 4) a fourth data entry key defining a maximum negative abscissa value along the X-axis.

The remaining alpha-numeric keys of the keyboard are divided into: 1) a plurality of first quadrant keys arranged to have absolute values of first quadrant abscissa and ordinate smaller than absolute values of the maximum negative abscissa value and the maximum positive ordinate value; 2) a plurality of second quadrant keys arranged to have absolute values of second quadrant abscissa and ordinate smaller than absolute values of the maximum positive abscissa value and the maximum positive ordinate value; 3) a plurality of third quadrant keys arranged to have absolute values of third quadrant abscissa and ordinate smaller than absolute values of the maximum positive abscissa value and the maximum negative ordinate value; and 4) a plurality of fourth quadrant keys arranged to have absolute values of fourth quadrant abscissa and ordinate smaller than absolute values of said maximum negative abscissa value and said maximum negative ordinate value.

Applicant's invention recognizes a distance from the space key or the reference key to any other key of the alpha-numeric data entry keys as a square root of the sum of the squares of an abscissa value and an ordinate value for such any other key.

Harbaugh

Contrary to Applicant's invention, Harbaugh provides a keyboard with a "HOME" key that is not at an origin of an X-Y coordinate system. While, the "HOME" key appears to be centrally located within a set of alphabet keys, such "HOME" key is not in the center of all keys (as recited in claim 1) wherein the number keys of Harbaugh are positioned in a grouping of keys to the side of the alphabet keys. Moreover, Harbaugh **does not** arrange the keys in a X-Y coordinate system with some of the keys designated at first, second, third and fourth quadrant keys. Instead, Harbaugh arranges the keys in a straight row and column format, as set forth in the Abstract.

Furthermore, Harbaugh **does not** teach the distance from the HOME key to any other key of the alpha-numeric data entry keys is defined as a square root of the sum of the squares of an abscissa value and an ordinate value for such any other key. Harbaugh also **does not** recognize the maximum (positive or negative) abscissa and ordinate values.

Lastly, even assuming that a coordinate system is imposed on the keyboard of Harbaugh with the HOME key as the origin, the plurality of keys of the keyboard in a quadrant still do not have their absolute values of quadrant abscissa and ordinate smaller than absolute values of the corresponding maximum negative/positive abscissa and ordinate values, as recited in claim 1. See FIG. 2 of Harbaugh. For example, the leftmost key on the row where the TAB key is located has an absolute value of quadrant abscissa not smaller than that of the leftmost key on the row where the HOME key is located. The abscissa of the leftmost key on the row where the HOME key is located defines the

maximum negative abscissa value along the major X-axis.

In view of the foregoing remarks, amended Claim 1 is allowable over Harbaugh and the corresponding rejection under 35 USC 102(b) should be withdrawn. Since Claims 2-5 depend from independent Claim 1, then for the same reasons set forth above with regard to Claim 1, these dependent claims are also allowable over Harbaugh and the corresponding rejection under 35 USC 102(b) should be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by

Millington (U.S. Pat. No. 6,037,942)

In paragraph 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 6-20 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Millington (U.S. Pat. No. 6,037,942). In response, the Applicant has amended the claims to better clarify the invention.

Millington

Contrary to Applicant's invention, Millington provides a keyboard with an "OK" key that is not at the origin of an X-Y coordinate system. The Millington keyboard provides groups of keys wherein some of these groups have their own center key. Thus, the "OK" key is not in the center of all keys, as recited in claim 6. Moreover, Millington **does not** arrange the keys in a X-Y coordinate system with some of the keys designated at first, second, third and fourth quadrant keys and **does not** define maximum (positive or negative) abscissa and ordinate values.

Furthermore, Millington **does not** teach a distance from the "OK" key to any other key of the alpha-numeric data entry keys is defined as a square root of the sum of the squares of an abscissa value and an ordinate value for such any other key.

In view of the foregoing remarks, amended Claim 6 is allowable over Millington

and the corresponding rejection under 35 USC 102(e) should be withdrawn. Since Claims 7-13 depend from independent Claim 6, then for the same reasons set forth above with regard to Claim 6, these dependent claims are also allowable over Millington and the corresponding rejection under 35 USC 102(e) should be withdrawn.

Applicant submits that the arguments made above with respect to claims 1 and 6 are also applicable to claim 14, and submits that claim 14, and its dependent claims 15-20, are also not anticipated by Millington.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, the Applicant believes that they have overcome all of the Examiner's basis for rejection, and that this application therefore stands in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Applicant requests that he contact their undersigned attorney in order to resolve any outstanding issues without the necessity of issuing another Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to [Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment], Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on:

Date

9-11-03

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